

Habitat Project Proposal

Proposal Title: Grantsville Chaining

Proposal Number: 1117

DWR Region: Central Region

Lead Agency: DWR

County: Tooele

Project Manager: Steven Wilcox

PM Phone:

Regional Priority: Within Focus Area

Project Type: Terrestrial Habitat

Proposed Start Date: 10/15/2008

Project Location: Near Grantsville on the foothills northeast of Deseret Peak.

Project Description: Chain and seed 500 acres of encroaching junipers on the foothills northeast of Deseret Peak near the town of Grantsville.

Description of Problem/Need: The foothills of this area comprise historic Greater sage-grouse and big game habitat as well as historic grazed rangeland. The property in question is owned by the Grantsville SCD and has not produced sufficient forage for grazing for many years. Juniper encroachment is the principal driver behind reductions in productivity and in the loss of sagebrush and bunchgrass cover. Current juniper densities will require disturbance to regain the productivity and diversity of sagesteppe habitat and to return to a lower seral stage.

There is definite potential within this area to restore sagebrush-bunchgrass habitat over a substantial amount of acres, and this project may offer a good opportunity to jumpstart projects in the immediate vicinity. Over time, with proper management, it may be possible to reestablish the seasonal habitat requirements for sage grouse, expand existing habitat for mule deer, and improve and restore habitat for various small mammals and neotropical migrants. It will also be possible to improve the productive potential for grazing in the area, which is a major concern for the SCD.

Objectives: (1) reduce density of existing junipers within chaining areas by 75-100%, (2) retain islands of juniper habitat within areas with shallower soils for cover and habitat, (3) increase the diversity and cover of native bunchgrasses and forbs, (4) increase the canopy cover of sagebrush within the treatment area, (5) increase herbaceous production to the extent that moderate grazing becomes viable.

Relevance to Strategic Plans: The project area occurs within the sagebrush steppe type which is one of the key habitats identified in the WAP. This area supports mule deer (Tier III) and Greater sage grouse (Tier II). Numerous other species of concern (Tier III) also inhabit the area including neotropical birds and raptors.

The proposed treatments lie within Central Region UPCD focus areas.

The proposed treatments will help address strategies outlined in the WDARM sage grouse conservation plan; By 2010, reduce pinyon/juniper stands from sage-grouse use areas. Reduce the threat of conversion of sagebrush stands to invasive/noxious weed communities. Work with public and private partners to implement livestock management plans that address seasonal needs of sage-grouse and livestock operations. By 2016, increase brood-rearing habitat quality in the Resource Area.

The proposed projects will address some of the habitat management strategies outlined in the deer management plan for herd unit 18 (Oquirrh/Stansbury) including: continue to restore and improve sagebrush steppe habitats critical to deer according to DWR's Habitat Initiative; cooperate with federal land management agencies and private landowners in carrying out habitat improvements such as reseeds, controlled burns, water developments etc. on public and private lands; and maintain and/or enhance forage production through direct range improvements throughout the unit to achieve population management objectives.

The proposed projects will address the following goals and objectives of the Division of Wildlife Resources most recent strategic management plan:

Resource Goal: expand wildlife populations and conserve sensitive species by protecting and improving wildlife habitat.

Objective 1: protect existing wildlife habitat and improve 500,000 acres of critical habitats and watersheds throughout the state by 2010.

Objective 3: conserve sensitive species to prevent them from becoming listed as threatened or endangered.

Constituency Goal: Achieve broad-based support for Division programs and budgets by demonstrating the value of wildlife to all citizens of Utah.

Objective 2: improve communication with wildlife organizations, public officials, private landowners, and government agencies to obtain support for Division programs.

Potential Risks: Lack of sufficient precipitation could limit recruitment of desirable in-situ species as well as planted species. If establishment of desired vegetation is limited, pre-mature grazing may limit the success of the project.

Proposed Methods: (1) Chain approximately 400 to 500 acres of mosaics two ways leaving islands of juniper in the most suitable soils for cover and habitat, especially for pinyon-juniper woodland bird species. (2) Broadcast and fly on a diverse seed mix of sagebrush, bunchgrasses and forbs between chaining passes.

Shapefile Name: Grantsville Chaining

Seed Source: GBRC

UPCD Reg Team Coord Date: 01/15/2008

Habitat Project Proposal

Proposed
NEPA Action:

Proposed
Arch Action:

☒ Vegetation Monitoring ☐ Wildlife Monitoring

Monitoring Details: A Range Trend Study will be established on the project.

Cons. Outreach
Details:

SPECIES BENEFITING

Mule Deer	Shrubsteppe Birds	Neotropical Birds	Brewer's Sparrow
Sage Sparrow	Sage Thrasher	Grasshopper Sparrow	Greater Sage-grouse

LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
Private	500
Total	500

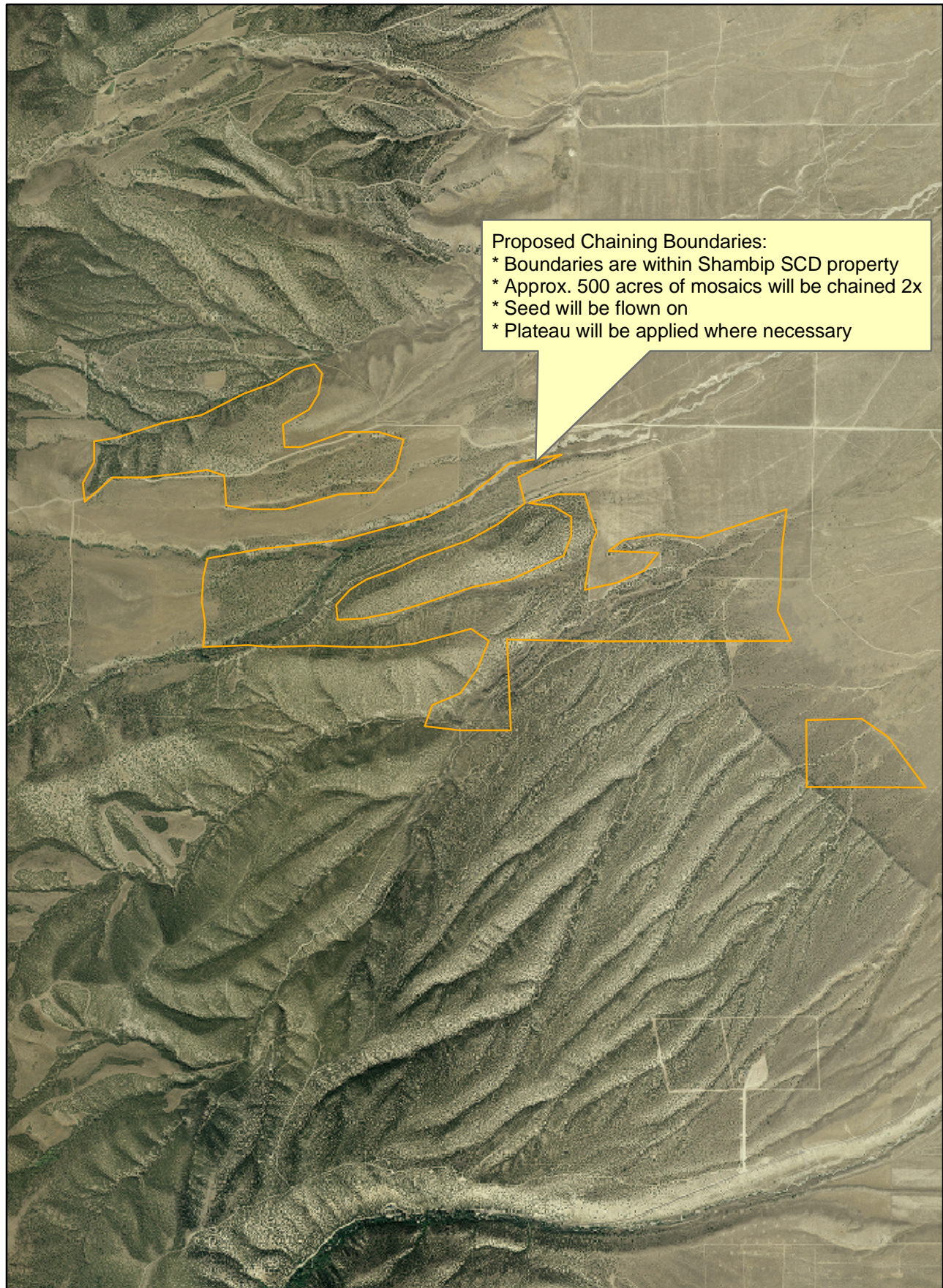
PROPOSED FUNDING

Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
DNR Watershed (FY09)	\$62,500.00		\$0.00
Private	\$40,000.00		\$0.00
Totals	\$102,500.00		\$0.00

PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	In Kind/ Partner Contrib.
Seed (GBRC)	seed for 500 acres @ \$75/acre	\$37,500.00	\$0.00
Equipment transport	transport of DWR chain	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Archaeological Survey	ARC clearance of 500 acres @ \$30/acre	\$18,000.00	\$0.00
Contractual Services	500 acres of 2-way chaining @ \$80/acre	\$0.00	\$40,000.00
Contractual Services	Aerial seeding 500 acres @ \$10/acre	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
			\$0.00
			\$0.00
			\$0.00
			\$0.00
Totals		\$62,500.00	\$40,000.00

Shambip SCD and DWR Proposed Chaining



Proposed Chaining Boundaries:

- * Boundaries are within Shambip SCD property
- * Approx. 500 acres of mosaics will be chained 2x
- * Seed will be flown on
- * Plateau will be applied where necessary



1 inch equals 2,500 feet